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TWELVE PAGES.
SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1900.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

The Democratic platform rings clear upon every issue now before the American people. It is courageous and it is definite. It neither dodges nor equivocates. It is not a mere juggle of words put together to catch votes and to conceal purposes. It enables the Democratic party to go before the country with a program that leaves nothing to conjecture and that cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted. There are no loopholes through which inconvenient pledges may be pitched into outer darkness, should the time come for their fulfillment.

It is no more petulant expression of opposition. It is neither iconoclastic nor reactionary. It is pre-eminently American and is in touch with what is best in the history and traditions of the republic. It contemplates no break with our past and does not put the American people in the humiliating position of humbly confessing before the thrones of Europe that the republic had its beginnings in a mistake and its continuance in hypocrisy; that George the Third was right and George Washington wrong. It holds fast resolutely to the theory justified by fact that the declaration of man's right to govern himself was a long step forward in the evolution of government, and that repudiation of this fundamental principle is not progress, but retrogression. This the convention wisely made the key-note of its declaration.

As to this part of the platform there will be no difference of opinion among Democrats. The line is sharply drawn between Imperialism and Expansion. Many Democrats favor the latter; none favors the former. When the platform passes to other issues it is equally clear and equally positive. The declaration as to Trusts is in striking contrast to the shuffling of the Republicans. The platform proposes definite action under the ample authority of the Constitution.

The only part of the platform, we take it, upon which Democrats will differ is the declaration for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. The insertion of this plank will be regarded as a mistake by many who supported Mr. Bryan in 1896, not that they believe it wrong in principle, but because they are persuaded that in view of the present grave emergency the contest should not have been complicated by any issue that threatened division; on the other hand had this declaration been omitted, such omission would have given offence to an equally large number of voters who cordially supported the Democratic platform and nominees four years ago. Just what part this issue will play in the campaign will shortly appear. It may lead to a repetition of the Palmer-Buckner fiasco of 1896; though many former Democrats who supported this ticket or voted for McKinley will return despite the silver plank.

Taken by far and large, it is an excellent platform, and one upon which the Democrats should be able to rally all opponents of the vicious tendencies of Republicanism. It is a platform that neither now nor hereafter will call for explanation or apology. It has the virtue which is supreme in a party declaration—it enables every voter to choose intelligently for or against it. It is rather lengthy; it might perhaps have been compressed with advantage and without sacrificing clearness; but there are a multitude of issues this year and the main thing was that the party's position on each should be simply set forth. This the platform does.

MR. BRYAN AND THE SILVER PLATFORM.

The Republican press is greatly raving at what it terms Mr. Bryan's dictation to the Kansas City Convention. Mr. Bryan, we are assured, is a most offensive boss, one beside whom Mark Hanna is not worth mentioning. The basis of fact does not quite seem to warrant this righteous and gratuitous wrath. A majority of the delegates to the Kansas City Convention went instructed to vote for a reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and for the nomination of Mr. Bryan as the head of the ticket. A reaffirmation of the platform in good faith would have pledged the party to 16 to 1 quite as effectually as the insertion of a specific plank. It had, however, been announced in advance that such affirmation was to be interpreted as shuffling. Mr. Bryan declined to benefit by that process, which he construed and had a right to construe as a partial repudiation of himself, and stated to the representatives of the convention that he could not be a candidate upon such a platform. The convention was at liberty to frame any platform it chose to nominate somebody other than Mr. Bryan thereon. It chose to comply with the condition Mr. Bryan stated as necessary to its acceptance of the nomination. It was left free in the premises. That is not what is popularly meant by bossism. Certainly Mr. Bryan's action was more admirable than the meek submission of Mr. McKinley of a repudiation of his record as to Porto Rico by the Philadelphia Convention.

Mr. Bryan might have refused to state his wishes to the convention, but such would hardly have been in keeping with precedent. Hon. Grover Cleveland was not only consulted as to the platform upon which he was to run, but sought the first opportunity to repudiate part of it after he had been nominated. Yet we observe that the Cleveland-worshipping press is joining with the Republicans in throwing frantic fits because Mr. Bryan chose the more open and honorable method of stating clearly that he would not run upon a platform that would expose him to the charge of being a spineless politician and a miserable opportunist.

The truth is that the logical choice of the convention was between Mr. Bryan on a platform such as was adopted and some other man on a platform repudiating bimetallicism. Mr. Bryan had the discernment to see and the courage to state this. The convention chose the former and all Democrats will abide by the results; the assistant Republicans will doubtless seek and find a welcome in the more congenial atmosphere of the party that pays and hollers when Mark Hanna gives the word.

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF TEACHERS.

The National Educational Association will meet in Charleston, S. C., next week in annual convention. The Association has a membership of about 10,000, who usually participate in the proceedings of the convention, including, of course, the most distinguished educators of the country. That Charleston will care for the teachers handsomely goes without saying, after the way in which it handled the Confederate Veterans in 1899. There is much of historic interest about the Palmetto metropolis, and the News and Courier says that bunting will be employed "to give the town the little touch of color which its modest title requires to bring out its ancient beauties."

These annual conventions of the nation's educators have increased in interest and importance from year to year, and have done much to advance the efficiency of methods of instruction and to increase the enthusiasm of teachers in their work. The fact that the convention is to be held at a comparatively nearby point should insure the attendance of a large and representative delegation from Virginia. There is room for much improvement in the school system in this State, and the earnest and conscientious men and women engaged in teaching would be the first to admit the good to be derived from attendance on the convention where new ideas and fresh inspiration may be had.

Education in the South needs a new impetus. The section is developing phenomenally on the material side; education should keep pace with this development. There are many crudities that need to be eliminated. The literacy of the South is proportionately greater than that of any other section of the Union, whereas it needs, for obvious reasons, a more intelligent citizenship. If the meeting in a Southern city of this distinguished body of educators shall give impetus to a movement for better schools in the South it will mark the beginning of a new era for this section.

COLONEL COWARDIN

In the death at Richmond of Col. Charles O'Brien Cowardin, Virginia loses one of its most valued citizens and Southern journalism one of its most distinguished representatives. Col. Cowardin was president of the Dispatch Company, a member of Governor Tyler's staff, and was known and honored throughout Virginia. In the prime of life, his taking off can but seem, to the city and State that he served so loyally, most untimely. Clean, high-minded and public-spirited, Col. Cowardin so bore himself that his life was an inspiration and most worthy example.

AN ASTOUNDING DELIVERANCE.

General Thomas L. Rosser's letter to Governor Roosevelt bids fair to take place as the most remarkable political document of the year. Among other things General Rosser says in his letter:

"When the war was declared against Spain in 1898 the fear that my country was in danger passed through me like an electric spark, clearing my vision and revealing the follies behind which I had been sulking. That the South is unanimous in its political opposition to the North cannot satisfactorily be ascribed, in my mind, to a difference in primary belief, but is founded on a blind prejudice which all candid, loyal citizens should spurn. If the North can prosper, and it does, under Republican administration, the South should blush to admit that she cannot do the same, for she has equal opportunities. To say that the Republicans are alone dishonest and that the Democrats alone are honest is foul blackguardism."

It is not a very nice term, but nevertheless contemptible seems to be about the only word that fits this deliverance. Nobody will question the right of General Rosser to go over to the Republican party; ex-Confederate generals have done that before him, though it must be confessed that the results have not always been happy. What will strike Southern people—and doubtless Northern people as well—with amazement is that General Rosser should have felt impelled to signalize his change of political faith by toadying the North and stigmatizing the South. If General Rosser felt that it was necessary to take his countrymen into his confidence by the gratuitous admission that for thirty odd years he had been sulking behind follies, there was nobody to say him nay; for such humbleness, moreover, Uriah Heep furnished a distinguished precedent. But we are aware of no authority vested in General Rosser to include the rest of the Southern people in his confession of sulks and follies. If General Rosser feels that in order to be "loyal" he must vote the Republican ticket, by all means let him yield to his consuming desire to be loyal; it does not follow, however, that all who fail to agree with him are victims of "blind prejudice." If the South is "unanimous" in its political opposition to the North it necessarily follows that the North is unanimous in its political opposition to the South. One has as much reason to explain and apologize as the other. If the South "blush" at all in this matter, it will be for General Rosser, and not for its continued adhesion to the Democratic party.

Admiral Dewey is accredited with a desire to be sent back to Eastern waters. He is a gallant old sea-dog, but he will not be gratified. He has made enemies in the wrong quarter and only a grave danger that would arouse popular clamor could secure him a place in the thick of it once more.

The Petersburg Index-Appeal celebrated its 35th anniversary on the Fourth. The Index-Appeal is a clean and fearless newspaper, and the wish is cordial that its shadow may continue to increase.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

A TRIAL OF ENTERPRISE.
(Philadelphia Ledger.)

Samoa appears to present an opportunity for a fair competitive trial of the commercial enterprise between the Americans and the Germans. By the terms of the recent treaty of partition, Apia, the capital of the islands and their chief city, was given to the Germans, while the only American possession in the group was located at Pago Pago, on another island. Pago Pago has the better harbor, but Apia, heretofore, has been the commercial centre of the whole group, even the mails for Pago Pago being landed there, to be called for by whatever messenger the Pago Pago correspondents might choose to send. The arrangement for separate possession of the islands went into effect scarcely six months ago, but already it is reported from Apia that business there is declining, and that there are evidences that American and British interests are being transferred to Pago Pago, which, it is believed, will become the metropolis of the group. The German town has the advantages of prestige and established trade, but in spite of these, the American town can outgrow it and take away its commercial importance it will be a triumph for American enterprise and an object lesson of much international significance.

SAFEGUARDING LIFE FROM FIRE.
(New York Tribune.)

Disasters much less appalling than that of Saturday have often raised the question whether or not they could have been prevented by human ingenuity. Progress is largely achieved through blunders and by the development of unforeseen possibilities of peril. Railway collisions have pointed out the value of double tracks and block signaling, and several catastrophes have brought about reforms in methods of heating and lighting cars. In like manner accidents at sea have led to the construction of double bottoms, the introduction of electrically closed bulkhead doors and the holding of frequent elaborate boat drills among the crews of the great liners. The Hoboken calamity was unique in more respects than one. But the proverb about lightning never striking twice in the same place long ago proved untrue. And even if the particular combination of circumstances which resulted so horribly on Saturday should not occur again in a century, something equally unexpected and fearful and not so different is sure to happen to-morrow. Man has been waging intermittent war on flame for thousands of years; and yet, after having won countless victories and accomplished innumerable improvements in his way of fighting, he is today liable at any moment to be outwitted and overcome.

WHO BEGAN THE WAR?
(Philadelphia Times.)

Admiral Kempff proved that he was a thoroughly competent and faithful commander when he refused to join in bombarding the Chinese forts at Taku in the absence of direct orders from his government. That attack upon Chinese coastal forts and upon the Boxers or insurgents, was an act of war and could not be interpreted in

any other way. If the allied vessels had fired upon revolutionists who were seeking to overthrow the Chinese Government and destroy life and property, it might have been in some degree excusable, but to open fire on the regular army of the Chinese Government was an act of war, and was unpardonable because without any just provocation. Our great Republic cannot afford to interpret international law in dealing with the Chinese in an entirely different manner from that in which it would be interpreted in dealing with any of the great Powers of the world. Missionaries and American residents have been butchered in many countries, but we have never pretended that it was an act of war, and the hoodlums of the sand lots of California have at times murdered Chinamen as they would rats, as the Mafia of New Orleans murdered Italians, but it was not by the order, or with the approval, of the government, and no one ever pretended that it could be regarded as a cause of war. Restitution has always been made by this government, as restitution was agreed to by the Sultan of Turkey for the murder of American Christians, and the law that we accept for ourselves, and that has been accepted by civilized nations "for a time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," is the law that we should, and in the end must apply to China.

Suffered Intensely with Headache and other Symptoms of Catarrh!

Dr. Firey's Treatment Again Demonstrates Its Power to Cure Catarrh.

"My daughter has suffered for some years with CATARRH. SHE HAS HAD FREQUENT HEADACHES, SORE THROAT, EARACHES, AND SUFFERED INTENSELY WITH ALL THE USUAL SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE. SHE WAS GROWING DEAF, and we feared that she would lose her hearing. She was treated by an able physician, but found no relief. A FRIEND, WHO HAD BEEN CURED BY DR. FIREY, advised me to take her to him. I feel that I cannot say too much for Dr. Firey's treatment. Everybody says she has improved so much. HER HEARING IS ENTIRELY RESTORED, and I hope she is well to stay well, and that she will never be troubled with the Catarrh again."

"MRS. A. MILTIER, Deans, Va.

Deans is about six miles from Portsmouth.

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St. Louis, U. S. A.,
Drewers of the Original Budweiser, Faust, Michelob, Anheuser-Standard, Pale-Lager, Export Pale, Exquisite and Malt-Nutrine.

Saturday's Big Bargain News.

One underprice marvel succeeds another—each succeeding day brings forth interesting money saving bargain values of standard apparel of the most depend-sort and character—there's no check to the outpouring of unparalleled bargains—there are no seconds—job lots—refuse plunder—damages or other irregularities in the stock—hence the more desirable, when under-price quotations are considered on choice clean—staple—standard merchandise that contain every element of virtue and quality as much so as they did under their regular figurements of valuation.

The Furnishing Man Gives the First Signal.

The Price Cutter worked his way into the Underwear Section yesterday—the result of this measure puts on sale to-day Underwear of excellent quality and finish at a price that will probably clean out the lot in one day's selling—remember there can be no more duplicates—those interested will find it advantageous to come forward to-day—needn't fear quality not sustaining price. Pick and choice of sizes—to-day only—

19c. Only 39c.

New Figurements on Straw Hats.

18c. takes the quarter quality.
37c. buys the regular half dollar-kind.
56c. owns the seventy-five cent kind.
75c. for the dollar grade.
\$1.12 instead of one fifty.
\$1.50 moves the two dollar sort.
\$1.87 does the work on the two fifty sort
\$2.25 captures the three dollar beauties
\$2.62 controls the three fifty superior Straw Hats.

Men's and Young Men's Suits Went With a Rush

\$5.55 Men's & Young Men's Dependable Suits. \$6.66 Men's & Young Men's Rattling Good Suits.

It is a waste of words to devote time and space when such values as these on sale become generally known. People know worth and value—they can discriminate between regularly made garments and those that are inferior make for anything like or near like the amount involved in cost—then, again, there is a difference between clothes that have undergone shrinkage before they are made and those that shrink afterwards. These goods have been shrunk twice—before they were made up—and now the price has shrunk after they're made. Suits like these will hold their own every way you test them—make—finish—fit—worth and wear.

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COAL OF ALL KINDS. Prompt Delivery.

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

The firm of COLE & SHULTICE, Attorneys at Law, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, to take effect from and after July 1st, 1900.

J. EDWARD COLE, ROBERT W. SHULTICE, June 1st, 1900.
Mr. Cole will continue the practice of law at room 25, Lowenberg Building, and Mr. Shultice will continue the practice of law at room 27, Lowenberg Building, in the city of Norfolk, Va.